

ESCHARA SPONGITES PALLAS, 1766 (BRYOZOA): PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A NEOTYPE UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
Z.N.(S.) 1826

By the late H. Dighton Thomas and Anna B. Hastings
(British Museum (Natural History), London)

1. The name *Stylopoma* was introduced by Levinsen in 1909 in the explanation of Plate XVIII and in the legend to that plate. In the former the two species assigned to *Stylopoma* are referred to as *Schizoporella* (*Stylopoma*) *longirostris* Hincks and *Schizoporella* (*St.*) *spongites* (Pallas), whereas in the latter they are given as *Stylopoma longirostris* Hincks and *St. spongites* Pall., respectively. Whether Levinsen intended the name as a subgenus of *Schizoporella* Hincks by his use of parentheses in the explanation of Plate XVIII is not clear, as he used parentheses apparently with an entirely different meaning in other parts of the work, e.g., *Electra* (*Heteroecium*) *amplectens* Hincks on p. 147 and in the explanation of Plate IX, and *Catenaria* (*Vittaticella*) *elegans* (Busk), *Catenaria* (*Vittat.*) *fusca* (MacGilliv.) and *Catenaria* (*Vittat.*) *cornuta* (Busk) in the explanation of Plate XIII—in these instances it is probable that the name in parentheses indicates that it is a synonym. This, however, could not have been Levinsen's intention with regard to *Stylopoma* and *Schizoporella*. In the legend to Plate XVIII the name is given full generic rank.

2. The type-species of *Stylopoma*, chosen from the two originally included species by Canu and Bassler (1920, p. 359), is *Eschara spongites* Pallas, 1766, p. 45.

3. Pallas (p. 46) gave the localities from which the species came as "Mare Mediterraneum & Americanum".

4. Although Harmer (1930, p. 79) has pointed out that Pallas included several species in *Eschara spongites*, Pallas gave a good description of a Mediterranean specimen in the "Museo Serenissimi Principis Auriaci" and commented that the specimen figured by Gualtieri (1742, figure after Title of Pt. iv) was very similar to it in its character. Pallas's remarks (p. 47) on the American specimens indicate that they belonged to other species (cf Harmer, 1930, p. 79—"The American specimens included probably belonged to other species").

5. In the hundred years following Pallas, several authors used his specific name *spongites*, either combined with *Eschara*, *Cellepora* or *Millepora*, for Mediterranean material (see Jelly, 1889, p. 234).

6. Smitt (1873, p. 42, pl. 8, figs. 161-163) used the name *spongites*, as *Hippothoa spongites*, for a species from Florida.

7. Waters (1909, p. 144), treating his own species *Lepralia errata* (1878, p. 11), *L. errata*, stadium *Hemeschara* (1879, p. 39, pl. 10, fig. 5), from the Bay of Naples, as a variety of *Schizoporella unicornis* (Johnston), noted that it "is what Pallas described as *Eschara spongites*" and that it "is not the *S. spongites* of Smitt, Hincks and Thornely". [Harmer, (1957, pp. 1035, 1034) referred the Hincks and Thornely material to *Stylopoma parviporosum* (Canu and Bassler) and *S. duboisii* (Audouin), respectively.]

8. Later in the same year (1909, p. 324) Levensen re-described Smitt's species and introduced the name *Stylopoma* (see paragraph 1, above). Although he referred to the species as *Schizoporella spongites* (Pallas) Smitt, he did not restrict the name *spongites* to the American material, but included a specimen from Aor, Malacca, Burma, (p. 325) and one from Java (pl. XVIII, fig. 4d).

9. By 1918, Waters (p. 17) recognized that *Eschara spongites* Pallas involved three species, namely, (a) *Schizoporella unicornis* forma *errata* (Waters) [= *Lepralia errata* Waters, an erect form], (b) *S. sanguinea* Norman, another Mediterranean but encrusting species, and (c) the American *S. spongites* of Smitt and Levensen. He suggested that, as "the first two species are well known under other names" [i.e., later names], *spongites* should be applied to the American species. However, he made no designation of a type-specimen.

10. Osburn (1914, p. 207), Canu and Bassler (1920, p. 359; 1930, p. 40), and Hastings (1930, p. 721) used *spongites* for the American species.

11. Pallas not only included Gualtieri's figure of *Porus Anguinus* . . . in his synonymy of *Eschara spongites*, but he also commented on the *specimen* in his remarks (see paragraph 4, above). Thus, in accordance with Article 74b of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, Harmer's choice (1930, p. 80) of Gualtieri's figure as type of the species appears to be valid—Harmer wrote, "Pallas' citation of Gualtieri makes it possible, however, to retain his name in the sense usually accepted; and Gualtieri's figure is thus to be regarded as the type of *Eschara spongites*". The later statement of Hastings (1932, p. 420) that "The genotype of *Stylopoma* is the W. Indian species figured by Levensen" is incorrect.

12. The name *Stylopoma spongites* (Pallas) is thus restricted to the Mediterranean form, and is not available for the American species.

13. Hastings (1932, p. 420), Marcus (1937, p. 91; 1955, p. 296) and Osburn (1940, p. 424; 1947, p. 29; 1952, p. 336), accepted Harmer's restriction of the name to the Mediterranean species. Following the suggestion of Canu and Bassler (1923, p. 102), they placed the Recent American species in the synonymy of *Cellepora informata* Lonsdale (1845, p. 505, 2 figs.), using the combination *Stylopoma informata* (Lonsdale).

14. Cheetham and Sandberg (1964, p. 1030) stated the nomenclatorial problems of both *Stylopoma* and *Eschara spongites*, and gave reasons (p. 1031) for rejecting the synonymy of the Recent American species with *Cellepora informata*.

15. It appears from the foregoing that the choice by Harmer (1930) of a Mediterranean lectotype for *Eschara spongites* Pallas was strictly lawful, but invalidates current usages as follows:

- i. of the genus *Stylopoma* Levensen for a distinctive group of species.
- ii. of the name *Stylopoma spongites* (Pallas) for a well-known American (warm Atlantic) species.
- iii. of the name *Schizoporella errata* (Waters) for a common Mediterranean and ship-fouling species.

16. By rejecting Harmer's selection and choosing a specimen of the American species as neotype of *Eschara spongites* Pallas, these usages would all remain undisturbed.

17. Moreover, as the Mediterranean species is also known from the American coast (certain records of *Schizoporella unicornis* being based on *S. errata*), this course would avoid the transference of the name *spongites* from one American species to another.

18. We, therefore, ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of a type-specimen for *Eschara spongites* Pallas 1766, made prior to the Ruling now requested, and having done so, to designate:
 - (a) Levensen's dry specimen from St. Jean (St. John) Bay, W. Indies, 10 fath., in Universitetets Museum, Copenhagen, redescribed by Hastings (in press), as neotype of *Eschara spongites* Pallas;
 - (b) Levensen's spirit specimen from St. Jean (St. John), W. Indies, in the same museum and redescribed by Hastings, as neoparatype of *Eschara spongites* Pallas;
- (2) to place the following specific names on to the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *spongites* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Eschara spongites* (type-species of *Stylopoma* Levensen, 1909);
 - (b) *errata* Waters, 1878, as published in the binomen *Lepralia errata*;
- (3) to place the generic name *Stylopoma* Levensen, 1909, (gender : neuter), type-species, chosen by Canu and Bassler, 1920, p. 45, *Eschara spongites* Pallas, 1766, on to the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

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